

What is claimed is:

1. A method for driving a three-electrode surface discharge AC type plasma display panel that has a screen  
5 in which first display electrodes, second display electrodes and address electrodes are arranged, the method comprising:

repeating initialization for equalizing wall voltages in all cells that constitute the screen,  
10 addressing for setting the wall voltage of each cell to a value corresponding to relevant display data in accordance with display data, and sustaining for generating display discharge a predetermined number of times only in cells to be lighted;

15 applying a blunt wave at least two times as the initialization operation so that a potential of at least one electrode of all the cells increases or decreases simply;

generating discharge only in a previous non-lighted  
20 cell that was not lighted in the last sustaining process that was performed before the initialization so that the wall voltage thereof approaches a wall voltage of a previous lighted cell that was lighted in the last sustaining process, in the first blunt wave application  
25 among the at least two blunt wave applications; and

generating discharge in the previous lighted cell and the previous non-lighted cell so that the wall voltage of these cells change to set values, in the second blunt wave application.

30 2. The method according to claim 1, further

comprising selecting cells by the second display electrode and the address electrode in the addressing; and

generating discharge between display electrodes in which the second display electrode becomes a cathode and  
5 generating discharge between the second display electrode and the address electrode in the previous lighted cell and the previous non-lighted cell, in the second blunt wave application in the initialization.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the  
10 final display discharge in the sustaining process is made discharge in which the second display electrode is an anode, and the second blunt wave application in the initialization is performed so as to satisfy the following inequality,

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$$2V_{t_{AY}} - V_{t_{XY}} \leq 2V_{AY} - V_{XY} - 2V_{a_{off}},$$

where  $V_{t_{AY}}$  represents a discharge start threshold level voltage when discharge in which the second display electrode becomes a cathode is generated between the second display electrode and the address electrode,  $V_{t_{XY}}$   
20 represents a discharge start threshold level voltage when discharge in which the second display electrode becomes a cathode is generated between the first display electrode and the second display electrode,  $V_{AY}$  represents a final voltage between the second display electrode and the  
25 address electrode in the blunt wave application,  $V_{XY}$  represents a final voltage between the first display electrode and the second display electrode in the blunt wave application, and  $V_{a_{off}}$  represents a dc component of an alternating pulse that is a difference between a potential  
30 of the address electrode and a potential of the second

display electrode when display discharge is generated in the sustaining process.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein adding  
to the two blunt wave applications as the initialization  
5 operation, a rectangular waveform is applied so as to  
increase or decrease a potential of at least one electrode  
of all the cells so that pulse discharge is generated,

the rectangular waveform application is performed  
before the first blunt wave application, and in the  
10 rectangular waveform application, discharge is generated  
only in the previous lighted cell so that the wall voltage  
thereof approaches a wall voltage of a previous lighted  
cell that was lighted in the final sustaining process.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the  
15 last display discharge in the sustaining process is made  
discharge in which the first display electrode becomes an  
anode.

6. The method according to claim 4, wherein the  
rectangular waveform application and the first blunt wave  
20 application are performed continuously so that an  
electrode potential does not change between them.